Start of [Proclamation to honor Ditha Bruncel Slowey].

AR 11837

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LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 11837 1/1 [Proclamation to honor Ditha Brunell Slowey] 2020 Archives

Draft 7 Feb 3, 2010

HONORING DITHA BRUNCEL SLOWEY

We the adult grandchildren and great-grandchildren of

Bruno and Erna Zucker

of what was then Brieg, Silesia, Germany, wish publically to proclaim our deeply experienced heartfelt thanks to

Ditha Bruncel Slowey

for her efforts, along with those of her parents and aunt and uncle,

Hedwig and Hermann Bruncel
Martha and Uncle Fritz Rumpel

all formerly of Lossen (near Brieg).

Seven decades ago, under the most horrendous of circumstances, in the midst of the Second World War, during the most difficult and dangerous conditions, brought food, aid, and physical as well as spiritual comfort to our grandparents (great-grandparents) Erna and Bruno Zucker during the terrible years of the early 1940s.

No words can adequately express the deeply felt appreciation for these selfless, courageous, and heroic acts during a time of near unspeakable horror.

These were amazing acts of loving kindness (*hesed*). Because of what Ditha and her family did, on some level the elder Zuckers recognized that there were good people in this world who would act to do what they could to reach out and maintain the ties of common decency and humanity in a cruel and pitiless world that denied those values. We will never know what Bruno and Erna Zucker thought and how they felt. Nonetheless, we can well imagine that in a time of deep and terrifying darkness, it brought some light and hope into their hearts, for surely those selfless acts lifted their spirits in those terrible and merciless times.

Ditha, your and your family dared to do what was needed to be done, to remain true to the values of your inner core. You have our lifelong respect and admiration. You embody righteousness , benevolence, and kindness.

May the name of **Ditha Bruncel Slowey**, and the name of her family be recorded as people who lived up to their highest ideals, and set an example for all of

humanity to honor and to follow. May their names ever be for a blessing. We salute you and their memory.

The family of Bruno and Erna Zucker.

Draft 3 February 3, 2010 LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Draft 4 slightly revised March 6, 2010 -oz

PROCLAMATION:
TO HONOR DITHA BRUNCEL SLOWEY

"The person who saves one life, saves the whole world"
(Babylonian Talmud *Sanhedrin* 37a).

The basis for this thought is that all people worldwide are linked through the bonds of their common humanity. To knowingly save another's life, and through that act being aware of the imminent danger to your own life and wellbeing is clearly an act of supreme courage and an extraordinarily personal heroic act.

The Leo Baeck Institute is devoted to studying the history of German-speaking Jewry from its origins to its tragic destruction by the Nazis and to preserving its culture. Part of that history includes the personal acts of courage and extraordinary bravery by non-Jewish women and men, often ordinary citizens who dared to take action despite the danger to their own personal lives. They did this because it was the right and decent thing to do.

The Leo Baeck Institute, with the full and genuine support, recognition, and encouragement of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany proclaims its profound gratitude to

Ditha Bruncel Slowey

for her efforts, along with those of her beloved parents and aunt and uncle,

Hermann and Hedwig Bruncel, and **Fritz and Martha Rumpel,**

all formerly of Lossen (near Brieg),

who under the most difficult and dangerous conditions, brought food, aid, and physical as well as spiritual comfort to their neighbors,

Bruno and Erna Zucker of Lossen, Silesia, Germany

during the terrible years of the early 1940s. Through these amazing acts of loving kindness (*hesed*) the Zuckers could be assured that there were good and honorable people in this world who would act to do what they could to reach out and maintain the ties of common decency and humanity in a world

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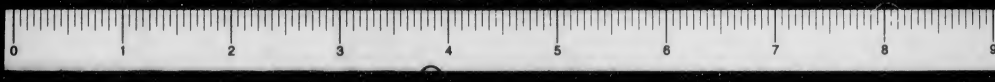

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

for the study of the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY
15 WEST 16TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10011-6301
TELEPHONE (212)744-6400 FAX (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org

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Carol Kahn Strauss
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New York, April 23, 2010

Carol Kahn Strauss
Carol Kahn Strauss,
Executive Director

End of [Proclamation to honor Ditha Bruncel Slowey].